

Anthropic Reasoning and the Contemporary Design Argument in Astrophysics: A Reply to Robert Klee

Walker, Mark and Cirkovic, Milan (2003) Anthropic Reasoning and the Contemporary Design Argument in Astrophysics: A Reply to Robert Klee.

Full text available as:

[PDF](#) - Requires a viewer, such as [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) or other PDF viewer.

Abstract

In a recent study of astrophysical " fine-tunings" (or " coincidences"), Robert Klee critically assesses the support that such astrophysical evidence might be thought to lend to the design argument (i.e., the argument that our universe has been designed by some deity). Klee argues that a proper assessment indicates that the universe is not as " fine-tuned" as advertised by proponents of the design arguments. We argue (i) that Klee's assessment of the data is, to a certain extent, problematic; and (ii) even if Klee's assessment of the data is correct, it provides a necessary but not a sufficient response to the design argument. However, an adequate skeptical rejoinder to the design argument can be made by appealing to the anthropic principle.

Keywords: philosophy of cosmology, observation selection, anthropic principle

Subjects: [Specific Sciences: Physics: Cosmology](#)
[General Issues: Explanation](#)
[General Issues: Science and Religion](#)

ID Code: 1443

Deposited By: [Cirkovic, Milan](#)

Deposited On: 15 October 2003

Additional Information: Response to the recent wide-ranging criticism of the anthropic reasoning by Robert Klee in "Brit. J. Phil. Sci.", vol. 53, 331-354